

THIRD DAY

House of Representatives
Wednesday, November 17, 1965

The House meets pursuant to adjournment and is called to order by Mr. Speaker Taylor.

Prayer is offered by the Reverend Alphonso Jordan, House Chaplain.

Representative Wood, for the Committee on the Journal, reports the Journal of yesterday has been examined, found correct, and without objection the same stands approved as written.

On motion of Representative O'Hanlon and Representative Bennett of Carteret the following remarks made before the Joint Committee of the Whole House and Senate by the Senator from Lenoir, Honorable Thomas White, are ordered spread on the House Journal:

"Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Fellow Members of the General Assembly:

I do not arise to impugn the motives nor to criticise the judgments of any man nor any group of men. We all acknowledge the sincere and dedicated service of the distinguished and able members of the Commission appointed to study the law to which our attention is now directed, and which deeply concerns the people of our state.

I do arise to say that this is indeed a sad day for North Carolina, and a dark day for our General Assembly—acknowledging that there have been many who think otherwise, the record of the General Assembly of North Carolina has been one in which its members and our citizens generally can take pride—and today, or tomorrow, or before this week has ended the General Assembly of North Carolina as we have known and revered it, may pass into history. The votes you cast this week may be the last you will ever cast in a General Assembly which down through the years has been honored and made great in part by the contributions of the dedicated services of men sent here by the little counties of North Carolina along with the services of men sent here by the people of our larger and more populous counties.

And this day is made more sad because it appears that we are urged to cast this last vote which we are privileged to cast, as a member of this great body in a certain way, under the dark shadow of threats urged upon us, and under extreme pressure which would rob us of the privilege of exercising our votes in accordance with the known wishes of the people of North Carolina.

We all have learned that honest men may honestly disagree on issues confronting the people of our state. No man knows better than I know that there are times when other men do not share my views. Yet I also know that there are many times when men are restrained by expediency or by personal pressures from expressing agreement with views of others including my own, for which they would fervently like to vote, but do not. Each of us has the right to stand upon his or her own convictions—and in this sad day—an under the dark shadow of the threats which would